

Grand Canyon National Park
River Permits Office
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Colorado River Waitlist Update!

Continuing Interest Form

(The attached form is due before 1/31/2004)

Postal Service Mailing Address:

**River Permits Office
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129**

Mailing Address for Other Carriers:

**Backcountry Information Center
Attn: River Permits Office
#1 Village Loop Road
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023**

FAX: (928)638-7844

Phone: (800)959-9164 or (928)638-7843

Cancellation Line: (928) 638-7883



Continuing Interest Newsletter, Fall 2003

Greetings! Once again it is time to renew your place on the Waitlist for Colorado River permits. **Please complete the attached form and return it to the River Office before January 31, 2004.** These forms are being accepted early; we suggest returning yours today.

As announced in previous newsletters, the Park Service is in the middle of an extensive process to update the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP). Included within this newsletter are three key things:

- 1) an update from Rick Ernenwein, CRMP planning team leader, on where we are with the CRMP planning process,
- 2) notice of a recent decision by park management to temporarily stop adding names to the waitlist,
- 3) notice of our intent to release 18 launch dates for this winter/spring through the cancellation line.

As stated before, we truly are grateful to all of you who chose to get involved in the CRMP planning process and submitted comments last fall. As a member of the planning team I can attest to the fact that we are taking your comments and this process very seriously. We look forward to sharing our work and hearing your thoughts when the next stage of public involvement begins.

On behalf of our employees at the River Office, thanks for the continued positive comments and words of support. Your kind phone calls, letters, and emails help to bring brightness to jobs that can often be difficult. Thanks again, and happy holidays!

Steve Sullivan
Permits Program Manager

CRMP Planning Process Update by the Planning Team Leader

Grand Canyon National Park is making considerable progress in developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for revising the park's Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP). We have developed a full range of reasonable draft alternatives (including the current situation which is the No Action alternative), which is now undergoing preliminary impacts analysis.

The planning team has carefully considered and addressed input including the following:

- Extensive comments the park received during the public scoping period in 2002,
- Input from the stakeholder workshops and expert panels,
- Consultation with Native American Tribes,
- Interagency consultation,
- Provisions of the 2002 lawsuit settlement agreement,
- Extensive data and other information gathered by the planning team, and
- Laws, policies, and principles guiding plan development (on the CRMP website at www.nps.gov/grca/crmp).

The next steps in the CRMP planning process will include:

- Add mitigation measures to the alternatives, as necessary, to address any major impacts identified in the preliminary impacts analysis. The mitigated alternatives will then undergo additional impacts analysis. All of this is scheduled for completion in early November.
- Review the draft alternatives and draft impacts analysis, make any necessary changes, and select a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be the

agency’s proposal for a revised CRMP; it may be one of the draft alternatives, the No Action alternative, or a new alternative developed during the preferred alternative selection process.

- Publish a Draft CRMP/EIS for public review and comment (after any additional revisions and analysis).

We will not know the exact timing for publishing and public review of the Draft CRMP/EIS until the preferred alternative selection process has been completed. Once that process is completed, we will announce the schedule in a note to the CRMP email list and on the CRMP website. When the Draft CRMP/EIS is published, the park will issue a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, a press release, and a note to everyone on the CRMP mailing list. We have begun planning for extensive public review opportunities, including public meetings, and we will keep you informed as we develop the details.

Please send any comments or questions concerning this note or the process to grca_crmp@nps.gov. Thank you for your interest in Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River Management Plan.

Rick Ernenwein
CRMP Planning Team Leader

Hold on Adding New Additions

As part of the current CRMP Planning effort, planners are carefully examining and considering alternatives to the current waitlist permit system. Because an alternative permit system could be chosen through this planning process, planners are also looking at ways to transition to new systems and options for

handling those on the current list. Park management has not decided what level of commitment or promise it can give to those who might join the list at this time. Pending resolution of these important issues, park management has decided it would be inappropriate to continue allowing additions to the waitlist.

Therefore, until final decisions are made through the current River Management Planning process:

- A hold has been placed on adding new members to the noncommercial river permit waitlist.

This temporary restriction only affects those who are not on the current waitlist. **It does not adversely affect your place on the list.** As always, those who meet this year’s Continuing Interest requirement should expect to receive new waitlist numbers before the 2004 noncommercial year begins (the 2004 noncommercial year is 4/16/04 through 4/15/05). Thanks for your understanding and patience.

Available Launch Dates:

Mar. 2004: 1,3,4,7,10,11,13,15,18,20,23,26,29,31
Apr. 2004: 3,6,7,8

During the week of 1/5/04 - 1/9/04 the River Permits Office will be releasing the above 18 launch dates through the cancellation line.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these dates:

1. *Call the River Office’s toll-free number (800) 959-9164 option 4 over the weekend to hear what dates will be released during the week.*

People outside the U.S. and unable to call the 800 number should use (928) 638-7843 option 4.

2. *Check your waitlist number and compare it to the list (below) to find out when to call.*
3. *On the night before you are eligible, call the toll-free number again. The recording will list remaining dates and reiterate the process.*

The recording on the toll-free line will be updated each evening to list remaining dates. If all dates have been taken, the recording will explain.

4. *To request a date, call the River Office on the day you are eligible at (928) 638-7883, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

If the line is busy, please try again; we are helping another caller. Launch dates will be given out on a first-call, first-served basis to eligible callers.

When to Call:

Use the following chart to see the earliest day you will be eligible to call in on the cancellation line:

Waitlist #	Are eligible to call on:
03#00001 to 03#01499	Monday, 1/5/04
03#00001 to 03#02999	Tuesday, 1/6/04
03#00001 to 03#04499	Wednesday, 1/7/04
03#00001 to 03#05999	Thursday, 1/8/04
Any number	Friday, 1/9/04

Good luck!

How Good Are My Chances?

Your chances are excellent! In the past, many winter launch dates were not claimed until the very last day. Provided this trend continues, callers who are eligible to contact us in the first few days should find it easy to reach us and should have a good choice of available dates. If you are interested in shortening your wait, please consider requesting one of these dates!

Continuing Interest Form

For the Grand Canyon National Park
Noncommercial River Trip Waitlist

*** Due Before January 31, 2004 ***

By completing this form and returning it to the River Permits Office by the above deadline, I am certifying that I am currently on the Waitlist and that I would like to remain on it.

2003 Waitlist Number:

Full Legal Name (Initials are not acceptable):

First Name:

Middle Name:

Last Name:

Current Home Mailing Address
(Please do not list a business address)

Social Security #: - -
Only first 7 digits are required. If you cannot provide all of this information, please state the reason why:

Home Phone #: () -

Work Phone #: () -

Email Address:

Signature:

Date:

No fees are being charged this year to retain your name on the Waitlist. You may send this form to the River Office by FAX or via certified mail with a return receipt to obtain proof of timely submittal. Please do not send self-addressed, stamped envelopes. You will receive a letter by the end of April with your 2004 Waitlist number. **Thanks!**

Cut along line

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River Permits Office FAX: (928) 638-7844